

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of conveying articles, comprising the steps of feeding an article (5) to a pocket (35) of a conveyor (5) travelling along a given path (P); retaining said article (5) by gripping means (28, 29) associated with said pocket (35); and feeding the article (5) along said path (P) in a given direction (D1) by means of said pocket (35); ~~the method being characterized by~~ releasing said article (5) from said gripping means (28, 29); ; and pushing the article (5) against a locating member (34) of said pocket (35) as said article (5) is advanced.

2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising the step of retaining the article (5) by means of said gripping means (28, 29) once the article (5) rests against said locating member (34).

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said locating member (34) is located downstream from the gripping means (28, 29) with respect to the feed direction (D1).

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising the step of pushing said article (5) against said locating member (34) by means of push means (45) located along said path (P).

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said push means are formed on folding devices (45).

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said articles are blanks (5); each blank (5) ~~comprising~~ being formed with panels (11, 12, 13, 14, 15), tabs (16, 17, 18, 19, 20) and flaps (23, 25).

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tabs (16, 17, 18, 19, 20) are bounded with respect to the panels (11, 12, 13, 14, 15) by first crease lines (21, 22), and the flaps (23, 25) are bounded with respect to the tabs (17, 18) by second crease lines (24, 26); said second crease lines (24, 26) being substantially parallel to the feed direction (D1).

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blank (5) has a longitudinal axis (A); the method comprising conveying each blank (5) with its longitudinal axis (A) crosswise to the feed direction (D1).

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said blank (5) comprises a first pair of flaps (23, 25) upstream with respect to the respective pocket (35), and a second pair of flaps (23, 25) downstream with respect to the pocket (35); the method comprising folding the first pair of flaps (23, 25) by means of said folding devices (45) when said blank (5) is released from said gripping means (28, 29).

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising the step of folding the second pair of flaps (23, 25) by means of said folding devices (45) when the blank (5) is retained by said gripping means (28, 29).

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising the step of feeding each article (5) between the respective pocket (35) and a guide (6), located along a portion of the path (P), when said gripping means (28, 29) are deactivated.

12. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor for conveying articles (5)~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the conveyor comprises a said pocket (35) movable in a direction (D1) along a given path (P), said gripping means (28, 29) being associated with said pocket (35) to retain said article (5); the said conveyor (5) further comprises ~~being characterized by~~ comprising folding devices (45) located along the path (P) and cooperating with said gripping means (28, 29) and with a said locating member (34) ~~associated with said pocket (35).~~

13. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said locating member (34) is located downstream with respect to the gripping means (28, 29).

14. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said locating member (34) comprises stop members (37) for said article (5).

15. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said folding devices (45) are rotary folding devices (45) selectively positioned for contacting said article (5).

16. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said folding devices (45) rotate about an axis (44) perpendicular to said direction (D1).

17. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said articles are blanks (5); each blank (5) comprising panels (11, 12, 13, 14, 15), tabs (16, 17, 18, 19, 20) and flaps (23, 25); said folding devices (45) folding said flaps (23, 25) with respect to the rest of the blank (5); and said gripping means (28, 29) comprising a plate (28) and suction holes (29) for retaining one (13) of said panels (11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

18. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the tabs (16, 17, 18, 19, 20) are bounded with respect to the panels (11, 12, 13, 14, 15) by first crease lines (21, 22), and the flaps (23, 25) are bounded with respect to the tabs (17, 18) by second crease lines (24, 26); said pocket (35) retaining said blank (5) with said second crease lines (24, 26) substantially parallel to said direction (D1).

19. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said blank (5) comprises a first pair of flaps (23, 25) upstream with respect to the respective pocket (35), and a second pair of flaps (23, 25) downstream with respect to the

pocket (35); each folding device (45) comprising a first lobe (46) for folding a flap in the first pair of flaps (23, 25), and a second lobe (46) for folding a flap in the second pair of flaps (23, 25).

20. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized by comprising wherein the conveyor (5) comprises~~ a guide (6) located along a portion of the path (P).

21. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized by comprising wherein the conveyor (5) comprises~~ a drum (2) rotating about an axis (3) of rotation and having a number of gripping members (4) equally spaced about the axis (3) of rotation; each gripping member (4) having a said pocket (35).

22. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said guide (6) comprises a face (39) facing said drum (2).

23. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 22, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said folding devices (45) are located between the guide (6) and the drum (2).

24. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 22, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said guide comprises first grooves (40) extending parallel to the path (P) along said face (39) and for housing the folded flaps (23, 25).

25. (currently amended) A ~~conveyor~~ method as claimed in claim 22, ~~characterized in~~
that wherein said guide (6) comprises second grooves (41) extending parallel to the path (P)
and for partly housing the locating member (34).